



Welcome to the Cal/EPA Environmental Justice Workshop Open House

3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Facilitated Workshop

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Welcome
To
Cal/EPA's Fall 2004
Workshops on
The Environmental Justice
Action Plan



Overview of Cal/EPA's Efforts

Cal/EPA's EJ efforts to date have involved many stakeholders of various regions, disciplines and perspectives, including:





Interagency Working Group

- Air Resources Board
- Department of Pesticide Regulation
- Department of Toxic Substances Control
- Integrated Waste Management Board
- Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
- State Water Resources Control Board
- Governor's Office of Planning & Research



Advisory Committee

- Environmental Organizations (2)
- Community Organizations (2)
- Environmental Justice Organizations (2)
- Local/Regional Land Use Planning Agencies (2)
- Air Districts (2)
- Certified Unified Program Agencies (CUPAs) (2)
- Large & Small Businesses (2 each)
- Federally Recognized Tribe (1)



Intra-Agency EJ Strategy

Integrated Two-Pathway Approach

1. EJ Strategy: long-term implementation plans
2. EJ Action Plan: short-term activities
 - Explore complex issues
 - Test new approaches
 - Develop tools

Together they form an integrated approach to EJ implementation



EJ Action Plan Objectives

- Develop Guidance
- Improve Tools
- Ensure environmental justice considerations within the Governor's Environmental Action Plan



Action Plan Activities

- Develop pilot projects
- Collect data and identify data gaps
- Inventory tools and identify gaps/needs
- Conduct preliminary cumulative impacts analysis
- Evaluate whether additional precaution may be warranted



Action Plan Activities

- Identify mitigation strategies
- Develop Children's Environmental Risk Reduction Plan
- Develop guidance on precautionary approaches and cumulative impacts.
- Ensure meaningful public participation



Implementation of EJ Action Plan

Cal/EPA
plans to conduct activities
in the EJ Action Plan
in **five phases**
during the time period from
2004 to 2006



Implementation of EJ Action Plan

Phase 1

- **Develop**
 - **Pilot Project proposals**
 - **Working definitions**
 - cumulative impacts
 - precautionary approaches
- **Inventory Cal/EPA's current public participation efforts**



Implementation of EJ Action Plan

Phase 2

- Collect environmental data
- Identify data gaps
- Inventory current precautionary approaches
- Identify obstacles
- Inventory current cumulative impact tools
- Identify gaps in current tools/methods
- Develop common public participation guidelines

Implementation of EJ Action Plan

Phase 3

- Conduct preliminary cumulative impacts analysis for Pilot Projects
- Identify if additional precaution may be warranted





Implementation of EJ Action Plan

Phase 3 continued...

- Identify reasonable, cost-effective approaches and mitigation strategies, and develop environmental risk reduction plans
- Complete remaining activities to improve public participation and community capacity-building

Implementation of EJ Action Plan

Phase 4

- Initiate risk reduction plans as appropriate and feasible
- Explore implementation options





Implementation of EJ Action Plan

Phase 5

- Evaluate Pilot Projects
- Prepare guidance
- Explore implementation options



Action Plan Activities

Key Efforts for the analysis of Cumulative Impacts & Precautionary Approaches

- Develop definition
- Inventory methods & approaches
- Identify what's needed to address EJ gaps
- Develop guidance



Pilot Projects

Four Pilot Projects will be implemented in various regions of California by:

- Department of Pesticide Regulation
- Air Resources Board
- Department of Toxic Substances Control
- State Water Resources Control Board



Pilot Projects

Parameters

- Regulatory Involvement
- Community Participation
- Environmental Data
- Objectives and Outcomes
- Resources and Time



Questions and answers on the Environmental Justice Action Plan



Pilot Project

The Department of Pesticide Regulation will lead a project in central California.

The following parameters will be critical in the site-selection process.



Pilot Project

The **Department of Pesticide Regulation** will lead a pilot project in the Central Valley.

- Will include ambient air monitoring of multiple pesticides
- Will likely monitor schools, businesses and/or other public places



Pilot Project

Objectives

- Simple
- Measurable
- Attainable
- Realistic
- Timely



Pilot Project

Selection Issues

Community selection

- High Pesticide Use
- Demographics
- Weight of criteria

Pesticides selection

- Volatility
- Toxicity
- Relative Use
- Can be analyzed in same sample

Pilot Project

Project Constraints

- Not all pesticides can be monitored
- Staffing
- Time
- Lab availability





Pilot Project

Cal EPA

seeks *your* input on the following:

- What communities do you believe are the best sites to test our theories and approaches?
- What additional or alternative parameters should we consider?



Pilot Project

You can provide us with your comments:

- Tonight, by dropping your comment sheet into the box before you leave
- By US Mail
- By e-mail
- Or, orally this evening



Pilot Project

Contact Information

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Pilot Projects

Opportunity for your Input
and
Questions and Answers





Public Participation and Community Capacity Building

- How do you define public participation?
- What specific things can we do to improve our approach?
- How can we communicate better?
- What are the best methods for communicating with you?



Public Participation and Community Capacity Building

- Inventory current public participation guidance and mandates
- Develop common public participation guidance



Public Participation and Community Capacity Building

Contact Information

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See our Web site at:

www.calepa.ca.gov/EnvJustice/



Public Participation and Community Capacity Building

Opportunity for your Input
and
Questions and Answers



Multi-media Cumulative Impacts

What do we mean by multi-media cumulative impacts?

Multi-media

Paths of exposure - air, water, food, soil

Cumulative

Increasing successively, such as from multiple sources and over time



Multi-media Cumulative Impacts

Existing definitions:

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

“...two or more individual effects which, when considered together, are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts.”

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

“The combined risks from aggregate exposures to multiple agents or stressors.”

Environmental Justice Advisory Committee

“The total burden of all emissions and discharges in a geographical area.”



Multi-media Cumulative Impacts

Cal/EPA seeks your input on the following:

Definition

How should “multi-media cumulative impacts” be defined?



Multi-media Cumulative Impacts

Cal/EPA seeks *your input* on the following:

Inventory of methods

What studies, protocols, or tools are

- currently available
- needed, but not yet available or used

to evaluate multi-media cumulative impacts on a community or area?



Multi-media Cumulative Impacts

Future activities:

Develop criteria and protocols

for identifying and addressing environmental justice gaps in standard risk assessment

Develop guidance

on multi-media cumulative impacts analysis, prevention and reduction

Recommend implementation options

including proposals for policy, regulatory, and statutory changes.



Multi-media Cumulative Impacts

Contact Information

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Multi-media Cumulative Impacts

Opportunity for your Input
and
Questions and Answers





Precautionary Approaches

Cal/EPA seeks *your input* on the following:

Definition

How should “precautionary approaches” be defined?



Precautionary Approaches

Environmental Justice Advisory Committee

- Broad consensus on the importance of using precautionary approaches
- Many current environmental programs are precautionary in nature
- Additional precaution may be needed to prevent or address EJ problems
- Precaution does not mean a guarantee of zero risk, or a mandate to act without credible threat of harm



Precautionary Approaches

Existing definition of Precautionary Approach: **U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy**

“...applying judicious and responsible management practices based on the best available science and on proactive, rather than reactive, policies. Where threats of serious or irreversible damage exist, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a justification for postponing action to prevent environmental degradation.”



Precautionary Approaches

Existing definition of Precautionary Approach: **San Francisco Board of Supervisors**

“Where threats of serious or irreversible damage to people or nature exist, lack of full scientific certainty about cause and effect shall not be viewed as sufficient reason for the City to postpone measures to prevent the degradation of the environment or protect the health of its citizens.... Where there are reasonable grounds for concern, the precautionary approach to decision-making is meant to help reduce harm by triggering a process to select the least potential threat.”



Precautionary Approaches

Future Activities

Inventory of approaches

where/how are precautionary approaches used and what obstacles would limit further precautionary action

Evaluate whether additional precaution may be warranted

to address or prevent environmental justice problems

Develop guidance

on use of precautionary approaches in Cal/EPA's programs

Recommend implementation options

including proposals for policy, regulatory, and statutory changes



Precautionary Approaches

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Precautionary Approaches

**Opportunity for your Input
and
Questions and Answers**



Next Steps

- Next Public Meetings
- Next Public Comment Period
- Next Public Workshops





We Appreciate your time

**Please leave your comments
sheets in the box as you exit!**



Contact Information

For more information, please contact
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